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LIBRARIAN'S
TWELFTH
ANNUAL REPORT

COVERING THE

Year ended 31st March, 1913.





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1912/13-1925/26

ACCRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Library Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Twelfth Annual Report, covering the year ended 31st March, 1913.

Lending Department.—The total issue for the year just ended is 96,579, exclusive of the volumes issued from the schools ; a decrease of 8,215 volumes compared with the year 1911-12. The Library was open 299 days as against 300 days last year ; the daily average issue has decreased from 348 to 323. 2,359 new or renewed tickets have been issued, 813 of these being to children between the ages of ten and fourteen. Extra tickets for Non-fictional works have been granted to 116 borrowers, and the bookings for bespoke books number 334 ; the figures last year were respectively 108 and 381. The amount received in fines for overdue books is £17 5s. 6d., the number paid being 3,302, as against £19 13s. 11d. for 3,681 fines last year ; an average of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per fine. The total number of issues for home reading since the Library was established in April, 1901, is 1,092,554 and including those from the schools 1,102,853. The stock in this Department has been increased by 1,059 volumes ; 865 by purchase and 194 by gift. Of the latter, 117 volumes have been transferred from the Subscription Department, bringing the total received through that source to 666 volumes. The Lending Department stock stands now, after deducting withdrawals, at 15,506 volumes. 597 tickets recommending children as borrowers have been issued by Head Teachers as against 611 last year. Books are now on loan at the Hyndburn Park School for use in the seventh standard class.

689286

Reference Department and Local (Lancashire) Collection.—

The stock in the Reference Department has been increased by 144 volumes, 77 by purchase and 67 by gift. 12 volumes have been added to the Local Section, 9 by purchase, and 3 by gift. The stock in these sections stands now at :—Reference, 3,751 ; Local, 1,090 ; Total, 4,841 ; exclusive of the Patents Publications. The large number of volumes on the open shelves accounts for the comparatively small issue from this department. The number of volumes for which application has been made from the closed shelves is :—Local, 122 ; Reference, 686 ; Total, 808 ; an increase of 53 volumes on last year's issue.

Binding.—The number of volumes re-bound is 781, the cost of the work being £44 17s. 6d. ; £75 14s. 3d. was expended last year in re-binding 1,057 volumes. Of the above total, 343 volumes were from the Fiction Section, 242 from the Juvenile, 170 from the Non-fiction Sections, and 26 from the Reference Department.

Replacements and Withdrawals.—465 volumes have for the reasons stated below been replaced with fresh copies ; for this purpose 33 of the Old Mechanics' Library books were available, and 2 presented through other sources, leaving 430 to be purchased, the cost of which amounted to £36 11s. 6d. Books worn out, 464 volumes, new editions 1 volume ; total 465. 405 volumes were replaced last year at a cost of £39 17s. 2d. No worn-out volumes have been withdrawn from circulation. The number withdrawn last year was 203.

Pictures and Exhibitions.—Five pictures have been presented during the period covered by this Report.

Artist.	List of Pictures.	Presented by.
Le Jeune	.. "Early Flowers." (oil)	.. Miss Mary Wilkinson.
Sir J. Gilbert	.. "Jack Cade's Rebellion," (water col.)	.. Accrington Friend and Well-wisher.
Barker	.. "Welsh Stream." (water col.)	Mr. Councillor Barlow.
Robins	.. "Marine Drawing." (water col.)	"
Seyr, (Senr.)	.. "Landscape." (oil)	.. Mr. Coun. J. H. Whittaker.

Two water colour drawings have been purchased by the Committee, viz. : Prout's "Church of St. Wolfram, Abbeville," and Wm. Evans' "View near the South Downs."

There are now 50 pictures belonging to the Corporation exhibited in the Art Room. Twelve pictures were lent to us by the authorities of the Victoria and Albert Museum, in April, 1912, and remained on view twelve months. Three pictures were lent to the Bury Corporation for the purposes of exhibition, and were duly returned in good condition.

The Exhibition of Art Students' work was again held in the Art Room. An Exhibition illustrating the Deep-Sea Fishing Industry, arranged by the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries Joint Committee, was also held in the Art Room, and attracted a large number of visitors.

I take this opportunity of recording my high appreciation of the Committee's kindness, expressed in many ways, towards myself during my long illness, and, also, of the excellent way in which the staff, from Mr. Hesketh downwards, and despite changes in its personnel, performed their duties whilst I was absent.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN W. SINGLETON,

Borough Librarian.

EXPENDITURE.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Salaries of Librarian and Staff	297 0 10	
,, Printing, Stationery, and Advertising	22 12 0	
	<hr/>	319 12 10
,, Cost of Premises and maintenance :—		
Caretakers' wages	90 11 9	
New furniture	5 9 2	
Electric light and fittings	107 10 7	
Coke, gas, water, etc.	75 1 10	
Insurance : Building	13 7 6	
Pictures	15 15 0	
Rates	28 13 4	
Repairs to premises	9 6 4	
,, Heating apparatus	10 14 6	
Window cleaning	7 0 0	
Workmen's Compensation Fund :		
Contribution	1 12 0	
	<hr/>	365 2 0
,, Books :—		
Purchased : New (689 volumes)	130 14 10	
Replacement of books	52 5 9	
Re-binding books	44 17 6	
	<hr/>	227 18 1
,, General Library Expenses :—		
Officers' disbursements	13 0 0	
Subscriptions to Societies	33 13 1	
Telephone rentals	8 17 0	
Conference expenses, etc.	5 0 0	
Pictures : re-gilding (Art Gallery)	11 18 4	
Directories	2 10 0	
Papers and magazines	67 19 11	
Carriage	0 17 2	
Sea Fisheries Exhibition expenses	13 6 2	
	<hr/>	157 1 8
,, Purchase of Works of Art		50 0 0
,, Stock :—		
ADD : Decrease in value thereof	6 2 8	
	<hr/>	<u>£1125 17 3</u>

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
By Fines	17	5	6				
,, Subscriptions: Non-residents	1	10	0				
,, Papers sold	8	4	4				
,, Reserved books	1	8	7				
,, Damages and loss	0	3	0				
,, Extra cards	0	9	8				
				29	1	1	
,, Sale of Handbook: Fisheries Exhibition....				0	9	10	
Mechanics' Institution: Proportion of cost of							
heating	15	5	3				
Municipal Offices: ditto	5	0	5				
				20	5	8	
					49	16	7
BALANCE:—							
Amount charged on Local Rate:							
Borough Rate				1076	0	8	
					£1125	17	3

LENDING DEPARTMENT : Table of Monthly Issues.

1912-13.	No. of days open.	Totals.	Daily average issue.	Books on loan from Smith's.	Totals 1911-12.
April	24	8692	362	79	8841
May	26	7797	300	86	8162
June	25	7612	305	73	7710
July	27	7234	268	76	7475
August	21	7116	339	82	6639
September	25	7686	307	63	8326
October	27	8444	313	77	9225
November	26	8733	336	105	9123
December	24	8095	337	62	8873
January	26	8336	321	35	10577
February	24	8008	333	51	9602
March	24	8826	368	52	10241
Totals	299	96579	324	841	104794
Totals 1911-12	300	104794	348	1026	

TABLE GIVING PARTICULARS OF STOCK IN LENDING AND REFERENCE DEPARTMENTS.

CLASS.	LENDING.					REFERENCE.		
	No. of vols. in stock beginning of year.	With- drawals.	Additions to Stock.	Net total end of year. 31st March, 1913.	% of Stock in each Class.	No. of vols. in stock beginning of year.	Additions to Stock.	No. of vols. in stock 31st March, 1913.
A ..	550	..	31	581	3.74	866	11	877
B ..	173	..	13	186	1.19	14	..	14
C ..	703	..	43	746	4.81	123	18	141
D ..	549	..	27	576	3.71	161	12	173
E ..	828	..	35	863	5.56	402	10	412
F ..	1348	..	66	1414	9.11	342	3	345
G ..	1820	..	63	1883	12.14	706	15	721
H ..	767	..	26	793	5.11	623	2	625
K ..	457	..	29	486	3.13	83	1	84
L ..	898	..	29	927	5.97	257	45	302
M Non- Fiction	558	..	81	639	4.12	..	..	..
M ..	1742	..	273	2015	12.99	1	..	1
N ..	4054	..	343	4397	28.35	29	27	56
Local ..	..	..	..	..	..	1078	12	1090
	14447	..	*1059	15506	..	4685	†156	4841

* 325 volumes of this total take the place of withdrawals in previous years.

† Includes withdrawals in previous years.

Total Stock in both Departments .. 20,347 volumes.

Borough of



Accrington.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

LIBRARIAN'S
THIRTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

COVERING THE

Year Ended 31st March, 1914.



ACCRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

To the Chairman and Members of the Library Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Thirteenth Annual Report, covering the year ended 31st March, 1914.

Lending Department.—The total issue of books for home reading for the year covered by this report is 101,721, exclusive of the volumes issued at the Hyndburn Park School (1,091): an increase of 5,142 compared with the issue for 1912-13. A comparison of the returns for ten other libraries shews that an issue of $2\frac{1}{4}$ volumes per head of the population is an average issue for lending departments—ours for the year is slightly ahead of this average. The total number of issues for home reading since the Library was established in April, 1901, is 1,194,275, and including those made at the schools to which books are sent, 1,205,665. The Library was open 303 days as against 299 last year, no Easter holiday occurring during the library year; the daily average issue has increased from 323 to 336. 2,214 new or renewed tickets have been issued, 1,121 of these being to children between the ages of ten and fourteen. Extra tickets for Non-fictional works have been granted to 105 borrowers, and the bookings for bespoke books number 354, the figures last year were respectively 116 and 334. The amount received in fines for overdue books is £18 14s. 10d., the number paid being 3,500, as against £17 5s. 6d. for 3,302 fines last year, an average of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per fine. A large number of borrowers take advantage of the regulation allowing them to have non-fictional works registered for four or six weeks on request at the time of issue. The stock in this department has been increased by 1,231 volumes; 1,167 by purchase and 64 by gift. Of the latter, 38 volumes have been transferred from the Subscription Department bringing the total received through that source to 704 volumes. The Lending Department stock stands now, after deducting withdrawals, at 16,722 volumes. It is always of interest to note

the reasons given in the numerous Library reports which come under my notice for fluctuations in the issue of books—fine weather, picture shows and the like are frequently given as reasons for declining issues—but I should like to commend to your notice and endorse the remarks of one of the leading librarians in this country, that the library which maintains a plentiful supply of new books will not lack borrowers. A net increase in stock this year of 1,231, compared with our average of 900 volumes, and the fact that you have allotted in the estimates an additional £30 for the purchase of new books, are matters which it affords me much satisfaction and pleasure to report.

937 tickets recommending children as borrowers, have been issued by head teachers (the highest number yet recorded) as against 597 last year. It has not yet been found possible for the children of standards 5, 6, and 7 to visit the Library—the beginning of the Winter would be the most useful time—but the issue of so many tickets and the circulation of standard books in sets of 12, accomplished by the joint action of this and the Education Committee, must have had a beneficial effect upon the children's reading habits. Work amongst the children, and a closer association between the school and the library are increasing factors in library economy. 140 volumes have been on loan at the Hyndburn Park School for use in the 7th standard class: the issues recorded numbering 1,091. No return was made last year.

The opening of a Branch Station at the Higher Baxenden Post Office for the exchange of books was decided upon in March, and should result in a large increase in the number of borrowers from that outlying district.

Reference Department and Local (Lancashire) Collection.—The stock in the Reference Department has been increased by 197 volumes, 74 by purchase and 123 by gift. 17 volumes have been added to the Local Section, 15 by purchase, and 2 by gift. The stock in these sections stands now at:—Reference, 3,948,

Local, 1,107 ; Total, 5,055 ; exclusive of the Patents Publications. The number of volumes for which application has been made from the closed shelves is :—Local, 118, Reference, 608 ; Total, 726 ; a decrease of 82 volumes on last year's issue. The large number of volumes on the open shelves accounts for the comparatively small issue from this department. The total number of visitors to the Reference Room for the year just ended was 7,485.

Binding.—The number of volumes re-bound is 788, the cost of the work being £59 16s. 11d. ; £44 17s. 6d. was expended last year in re-binding 781 volumes. Of the above total, 336 volumes were from the Fiction Section, 310 from the Juvenile, 128 from the Non-fiction Sections, 14 from the Reference Department.

Replacements and Withdrawals.—277 volumes have for the reasons stated below been replaced with fresh copies ; for this purpose 8 of the Old Mechanics' Library books were available, and 5 presented through other sources, leaving 264 to be purchased, the cost of which amounted to £28 0s. 11d. Books worn out, 269 volumes, new editions, 4 volumes, Stock-taking, 2 volumes, Lost by borrowers, 2 volumes, total 277. 465 volumes were replaced last year at a cost of £36 11s. 6d. 68 worn-out volumes have been withdrawn from circulation ; 45 being not required, and 23 out of print. No worn-out books were withdrawn last year.

Pictures and Exhibitions.—Three pictures have been added to the collection during the year—one purchased and two presented—making the total number owned by the Corporation and exhibited in the Art Gallery, 54. The Committee purchased W. Shayer's “Coast Scene with figures” (oil), and the following were presented—(1) “Capel Curig Lakes” (water colour) by H. S. Grimshaw, presented by the artist ; (2) “The Forge” (engraving) by Jas. Sharples, presented by Mr. G. W. Belsey.

An exhibition of Baxter Prints, arranged by Mr. Richard Broughton, for a meeting of the Lancashire Authors' Association, was kept open to the public for a fortnight in September last. I also arranged a small exhibition of local books, pamphlets, and broadsides for the visit of this Association.

The Exhibition of the work of Art students at the School of Art, was again held in the gallery.

Conferences.—I had the honour of representing the Committee at a Complimentary Banquet given to Dr. Andrew Carnegie, at London, in June last, and also attended the Annual Conference of Librarians, held at Bournemouth, in September.

General.—In November, Alderman Nuttall retired from the Council, and, in consequence, from the chairmanship of this Committee, a position he had held since 1903.

A party numbering about twenty, from one of the Churches in the town, visited the Library one evening early in this year. They were shewn round the various departments, and a short lecture was given on “The Library, and how to make the best use of it.” It would afford me great pleasure to receive similar parties from other religious and social bodies in the town. Many people (and it is estimated that 1,200 to 1,500 persons use the Library daily) make use of only one section, and I feel sure that a closer acquaintance with the working of the Library would lead many to a fuller use of it. The members of the staff are available for searching for information on any topic upon which the Library books may be consulted ; they have during the past year, found information on such widely different topics as—“Gainsborough Hats,” “Refrigerators,” and “Paganism’s conception of love.”

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN W. SINGLETON,

June, 1914.

Borough Librarian.

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Salaries of Librarian and Staff	307	9	6			
,, Printing, Stationery, and Advertising	44	7	6			
				351	17	0
,, Cost of Premises and maintenance :—						
Caretakers' wages	93	6	10			
New furniture	15	9	1			
Electric light and fittings	73	11	4			
Coke, gas, water, etc.	84	13	9			
Insurance: Building	13	7	6			
Pictures	15	15	0			
Loan Collection: Baxter Prints	0	3	8			
Rates	29	6	8			
Repairs to premises	23	11	6			
Window cleaning	7	0	0			
Workmen's Compensation Fund :—						
Contribution	1	13	3			
				357	18	7
,, Books :—						
Purchased: New (1291 volumes)	162	5	3			
Replacement of books	36	6	3			
Re-binding books	59	16	11			
				258	8	5
General Library Expenses :—						
Officers' disbursements	11	15	0			
Subscriptions to Societies	30	19	9			
Telephone rental	9	12	0			
Conference expenses, etc.	20	12	0			
Directories	3	0	0			
Papers and magazines	70	1	8			
Geographical map of Accrington & District	25	0	0			
				171	0	5
,, Purchase of Works of Art				50	14	11
,, Stock :—				1189	19	4
DEDUCT: Increase in value thereof				18	10	7
	£	1171	8	9		

INCOME.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Fines	18 14 10	
,, Papers sold	11 10 10	
,, Reserved books	1 9 6	
,, Damage and loss	0 10 8	
,, Extra cards	0 11 1	
,, Subscriptions: Non-residents	1 0 0	
,, Waste paper	0 3 4	
	34 0 3	
,, Mechanics' Institution: Proportion of cost of heating	17 0 9	
,, Municipal Offices Account ditto ..	5 12 2	
	22 12 11	
	56 13 2	
BALANCE:—		
Amount charged on Local Rate	1114 15 7	
	£1171 8 9	

LENDING DEPARTMENT : Table of Monthly Issues.

1913-14.	No. of days open.	Totals.	Daily average issue.	Books on loan from Smith's.	Totals 1912-13.
April	26	8489	326	56	8692
May	26	8386	322	43	7797
June	25	7616	305	27	7612
July	27	7262	269	47	7234
August	20	6307	315	48	7116
September	26	8340	321	33	7686
October	27	8763	325	26	8444
November	25	9194	368	39	8733
December	25	8582	343	55	8095
January	26	9850	379	62	8336
February	24	8887	370	58	8008
March	26	10045	386	50	8826
<hr/>					
Totals	303	101721	336	544	96579
<hr/>					
Salis 1912-13	299	96579	324	841	

CLASS.

A ..

B ..

C ..

D ..

E ..

F ..

G ..

H ..

K ..

L ..

M Non-
Fiction

M ..

N ..

Local ..

TABLE GIVING PARTICULARS OF STOCK IN LENDING AND REFERENCE DEPARTMENTS.

CLASS.	LENDING.					REFERENCE.		
	No. of Vols. in stock beginning of year.	With- drawals.	Additions to Stock.	Net total, end of year, 31st March, 1914.	% of Stock in each Class.	No. of vols. in stock beginning of year.	Additions to Stock.	No. of vols. in stock 31st March. 1914.
A ..	581	..	35	616	3.68	877	28	905
B ..	186	..	9	195	1.16	14	..	14
C ..	746	..	20	766	4.58	141	11	152
D ..	576	1	34	609	3.64	173	12	185
E ..	863	..	45	908	5.42	412	3	415
F ..	1414	..	87	1501	8.97	345	16	361
G ..	1883	1	120	2002	11.97	721	69	790
H ..	793	..	29	822	4.91	625	13	638
K ..	486	..	46	532	3.18	84	9	93
L ..	927	..	35	962	5.75	302	19	321
M Non- Fiction	639	3	49	685	4.09	..	..	..
M ..	2015	51	46	2010	12.02	1	..	1
N ..	4397	12	729	5114	30.58	56	17	73
Local ..	..	..	..	..	..	1090	17	1107
	15506	68	*1284	16722	..	4841	214	5055

* 53 volumes of this total take the place of withdrawals in previous years.

Total Stock in both Departments .. 21,777 volumes.



PUBLIC LIBRARY.

LIBRARIAN'S
FOURTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

COVERING THE

Year ended 31st March, 1915.



Accrington Public Library.

To the Chairman and Members of the Library Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Fourteenth Annual Report, covering the year ended 31st March, 1915.

Lending Department.—The issue of books for home reading for the year covered by this report is the record one of 119,226 volumes—Central Library, 116,343; Baxenden Delivery Station, 2,190; and Hyndburn Park School (7th Standard Class), 693 volumes. This is an increase of 16,414 compared with the issue for 1913-14, and is higher by 4,133 vols. than the issue in any previous year. The total number of issues for home reading since the Library was established in April, 1901, is 1,312,808, and, including school issues, 1,324,891. The library was open 301 days as against 303 last year, and the daily average issue has increased from 336 to 394. 3,188 new or renewed tickets have been issued, 969 being to children between the ages of ten and fourteen: Included in this number are the recommendations granted by Head Teachers, 657, as against 937 last year. Extra tickets for Non-fictional works have been granted to 220 borrowers, and the bookings for bespoke books number 334—the figures last year were respectively 105 and 354. The amount received in fines for overdue books is £20 17s. 9d., the number paid being 4,012; as against £18 14s. 10d. for 3,500 fines last year. 1,335 volumes have been added to this department, 1165 by purchase, and 170 by gift, bringing the total stock after deducting withdrawals (64 vols.) to 17,993. Of the books presented, 95 have been transferred from the Subscription Department (making the total received through that source, 799 volumes) and 47 purchased from the fund provided by the United Choirs' Picnic.

Reference Department and Local (Lancashire) Collection.—

The stock in the Reference Department has been increased by 102 volumes, 47 by purchase, and 55 by gift. 18 volumes have been added to the Local Section, 12 by purchase, and 6 by gift. The stock in these sections now stands at :—Reference, 4,043 : Local, 1,125 : Total, 5,168. The volumes from the closed shelves for which application has been made number 700, as against 726 last year. In this connexion it must be remembered that a large number of books were transferred from the “closed” to the “open” shelves early in the year. The number of persons visiting the Reference Room was 11,638 as against 7,485 ; an increase of 4,153 readers.

Binding.—The number of volumes re-bound is 1,060, the cost of the work being £68 17s. 7d. ; £59 16s. 11d. was expended last year in re-binding 788 volumes. Of the total for this year, 542 volumes were from the Fiction Section, 338 from the Juvenile, 171 from the Non-fiction Sections, and 9 from the Reference Department.

Replacements and Withdrawals.—143 volumes have been replaced, 3 with presented books. The cost of replacing the remainder (140 volumes) was £26 16s. 7d. The reasons for replacement being—Books worn out, 113 : New editions, 29 ; Lost by borrower, 1 ; Total, 143. 277 volumes were replaced last year at a cost of £28 0s. 11d. 71 worn-out books have been withdrawn from circulation—63 being not required, 7 new editions, 1 out-of-print. 68 volumes were withdrawn last year.

Pictures and Exhibitions.—Seven pictures have been added to the collection during the year—five being purchased, and two presented. In May an Exhibition of the work of Past Students at the Art School was held in the Gallery. From the pictures there exhibited, the Committee purchased the following :—W. Parkinson, “Interior of Cartmel Priory” (pastel) ; J. E.

Sutcliffe, "After a day of toil" (oil); J. H. Cronshaw, "Chrysanthemums" (water-colour); M. Ashworth, "Lace maker in Epsom Almhouses" (water-colour); and J. Barnes, "Top of the hill" (water-colour). The two pictures presented were Mrs. R. George's "Bonnie Kilmenny" (water-colour), the gift of the Committee of the Past Students' Exhibition, 1914, and H. S. Grimshaw's "A September day" (water-colour), given by Mr. J. Beckett.

The Exhibition of the work of Students at the School of Art was again held in the Gallery.

General.—During the year, the accumulated balance from the United Choirs' Picnic, held so long ago as 1894, was handed over to the Library Committee for the purchase of standard musical works—the amount being £42 3s. 0d.

The Library Association Conference, arranged to be held at Oxford in September, was abandoned owing to the outbreak of war.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN W. SINGLETON,

Borough Librarian.

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Caretaker's wages	93	16	11			
.. Salaries of Librarian and Staff	310	16	4			
.. Fuel Light, and Cleaning :—				404	13	3
Electric light	69	17	3			
Electric lamps, fittings, and repairs	11	7	6			
Gas, water, coal, coke, and cleaning materials	73	16	8			
Cleaning windows	7	0	0			
Rates, Taxes, and Insurance :—				162	1	5
Rates	30	0	0			
Workmen's Compensation Fund, per folio 25	1	14	4			
Fire Insurance Fund, per folio 17 :—						
Buildings	£13	7	6			
Pictures	15	15	0			
	29	2	6			
Premises :—				60	16	10
Repairs	7	6	6			
Furniture and fittings	27	11	1			
.. Art Gallery :—				34	17	7
Framing, etc., pictures				18	8	0
Establishment Expenses :—						
Officers' disbursements	12	5	1			
Printing, stationery, etc	34	13	10			
Telephone rents	9	12	0			
Fund for purchase of Music :—				56	10	11
Expenditure during the year				5	11	6
General Expenses :—						
Expenses attending conference	5	0	0			
book buying	5	0	0			
New books: 1,138 vols.	148	5	10			
Re-binding books	68	17	7			
Replacements	28	4	8			
Newspapers and magazines	70	6	2			
Subscriptions to Library Associations	7	7	0			
for periodicals, mags., etc.	11	2	9			
W. H. Smith & Sons' Library	14	0	0			
	358	4	0			
DEDUCT: Increase in value of stock, viz. :—				1101	3	6
Amount at 31st March, 1915	145	0	0			
Amount at 1st April, 1914	121	11	3			
	23	8	9			
	£1077	14	9			

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Fines	20	17	9			
.. Papers sold		7	15	4		
.. Fees for reserved books		1	7	10		
.. Fees for damaged and lost books		0	12	11		
.. Fees for extra cards		1	2	1		
.. Subscriptions : Non-residents		1	15	0		
					33	10 11
Mechanics' Institute : Proportion of cost of heating	13	0	0			
Municipal Offices Account : Do. ..	6	1	10			
United Choirs' Pic-nic Committee : Donation for purchase of music	42	3	0		61	4 10
					94	15 9

BALANCE :—

Amount charged on Local Rate	982	19	0
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£1077 14 9

LENDING DEPARTMENT : Table of Monthly Issues.

1914-15.	No. of Days open.	Totals. —Central.	Totals. —Baxenden	Totals.	Daily Average issues.	Books on loan from Smith's.	Totals. —1913-14
April . . .	24	8511	148	8659	361	47	8489
May . . .	26	8770	148	8918	343	41	8386
June . . .	25	7859	191	8050	322	52	7616
July . . .	22	7573	123	7696	350	64	7262
August . .	25	9098	170	9268	371	105	6307
September .	26	10146	150	10296	396	77	8340
October . .	26	11809	191	12000	462	75	8763
November .	25	11149	210	11359	454	67	9194
December .	25	10332	220	10552	422	48	8582
January . .	26	10990	217	11207	431	62	9850
February . .	24	9821	203	10024	417	66	8887
March . . .	27	10285	219	10504	389	45	10045
 Totals . .	301	116343	2190	118533	394	749	101721
 Totals— 1913-14	303	..	..	101721	336	544	..

MENTS.

ERENCE.

Total.	With- drawals.	No. of vols, in stock 31st March, 1915.
914	7	907
14	..	14
154	..	154
212	..	212
427	..	427
366	..	366
805	..	805
641	..	641
98	..	98
345	..	345
..
1	..	1
73	..	73
4050	7	4043
1125	..	1125
5175	7	5168

T

TABLE GIVING PARTICULARS OF STOCK IN LENDING AND REFERENCE DEPARTMENTS.

CLASS.	LENDING.					REFERENCE.					
	No. of vols. in stock beginning of year.	Additions.	Total.	With- drawals.	Nett total end of year, 31st March, 1915.	% of Stock in each Class.	No. of vols. in stock beginning of year.	Additions to Stock.	Total.	With- drawals.	No. of vols, in stock 31st March, 1915.
A ..	616	35	651	..	651	3.06	905	9	914	7	907
B ..	195	11	206	..	206	1.14	14	..	14	..	14
C ..	766	21	787	..	787	4.37	152	2	154	..	154
D ..	609	35	644	..	644	3.59	185	27	212	..	212
E ..	908	43	951	1	950	5.27	415	12	427	..	427
F ..	1501	48	1549	..	1549	8.60	361	5	366	..	366
G ..	2002	138	2140	..	2140	11.94	790	15	805	..	805
H ..	822	26	848	..	848	4.71	638	3	641	..	641
K ..	532	70	602	..	602	3.34	93	5	98	..	98
L ..	962	76	1038	..	1038	5.76	321	24	345	..	345
M Non- Fiction	685	41	726	14	712	3.95	..	..	..	..	..
M ..	2010	106	2116	41	2075	11.53	1	..	1	..	1
N ..	5114	685	5799	8	5791	32.18	73	..	73	..	73
Local ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3948	102	4050	7	4043
							1107	18	1125	..	1125
	16722	1335	18057	64	17993	..	5055	120	5175	7	5168

Borough of Accrington.



PUBLIC LIBRARY.

LIBRARIAN'S

FIFTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

COVERING THE

Year ended 31st March, 1916.



Accrington Public Library.

To the Chairman and Members of the Library Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Fifteenth Annual Report, covering the year ending 31st March, 1916.

Lending Department.—The issue of books for home reading for the year covered by this report is 113,461 volumes—Central Library, 110,834; Baxenden Delivery Station, 2,627; a decrease of 5,765 vols., compared with the issue of 1914-1915; which issue was higher by 4,133 than that of any previous year. The total number of issues for home reading since the Library was established in April, 1901, is 1,426,269, and including school issues, 1,438,352. The Library was open 301 days—the same number as last year—and the daily average issue has decreased by 18, (376 as against 394). 2,470 new or renewed tickets have been issued, 1,109 being to children between the ages of ten and fourteen: last year 3,188 were issued. Included in the total for this year are the recommendations granted by head teachers, 814 as against 657. Extra tickets for non-fictional works have been granted to 155 borrowers as against 220, and the bookings for bespoke books number 369 (last year, 334). The amount received in fines for overdue books is £27 12s. 4d., the number paid being 5,127, as against £20 17s. 9d. for 4,012 fines last year. 625 volumes have been added to this department, 246 by purchase, and 379 by gift, bringing the total stock after deducting withdrawals (316 vols.) to 18,366. Of the number presented, 101 have been transferred from the Subscription Department (making the total received from that source 900

volumes), and 126 purchased from the fund provided by the United Choirs' Picnic. In all (inclusive of reference works) 178 vols. have been purchased from the latter fund. The percentage of fiction issued as well as the frequency with which a request for "something to take my mind off the war" has been proffered, would lead one to infer that borrowers are experiencing difficulty in settling down to serious reading at the present time. Taking into consideration, however, that no books have been purchased since August last, and that large numbers of readers are away, the fact that the issue of books for home reading is nearly 8,000 above the average for the past four years, would seem to prove that the Library is still of great service, if only from a recreative point of view. A pleasing feature of the issues is the increase at the Baxenden Delivery Station.

Reference Department and Local Collection.—The stock in the reference department has been increased by 63 vols., 14 by purchase, and 49 by gift. 10 volumes have been added to the local section, 8 by purchase, and 2 by gift. The stock in these sections now stands at—Reference, 4,106 ; Local, 1,135 ; Total, 5,241. 365 volumes from the closed shelves were consulted as against 700 last year. The number of persons visiting this department was 6,796, the total for the previous year being 11,638. It seems evident that the curtailment of the hours of opening due to the lighting restrictions has seriously affected the use of this department.

Binding.—The numbers of volumes re-bound is 1,172, the cost of the work being £70 9s. 3d. ; £68 17s. 7d. was expended last year in re-binding 1,060 volumes. Of the total for this year the section numbers are fiction 569, juvenile fiction 307, non-fiction 264, reference and local 32. 106 volumes, costing £11 12s. 10d., were bound at the charge of the United Choirs' Picnic Fund.

Replacements and Withdrawals.—245 volumes have for various reasons been replaced with new or second-hand copies—18 with presented books—the cost of replacement being £21 7s. 6d. The reasons for replacement were: Books worn out 226, new editions 1, lost by borrowers 7, imperfect 3, stocktaking 8. Last year 143 vols. were replaced at a cost of £26 16s. 7d. The number of withdrawals has increased from 71 to 284; the reduction in the estimates accounting for this to a great extent. For some time now the trimming and re-sprinkling of the fore edges of much-used books has been practised, and I am quite satisfied that the cost is justified, and that the process has an appreciable influence upon the life of the book.

Pictures and Exhibitions.—No additions have been made to the Art Gallery during the period covered by this report—the number of pictures at present on exhibition is 61. Although statistics are not available, I believe I am correct in saying that more persons than usual have visited the gallery. Considerable interest has been evinced in the collection of photographs of the local army units now exhibited on the staircase walls. Visitors have frequently pointed with pride to some relative in one or other of the groups now serving with the colours. The gifts of photographs are as follows:—“Portrait of Captain Harwood,” (which suitably heads the series), presented by Messrs. J. W. Tattersall & Co.; “Members of the Sergeants’ Mess, 11th Service Battalion East Lancashire Regiment,” presented by Captain Harwood; “The Royal Visit to Accrington, July 9th, 1913,” presented by Messrs. Moffitt Bros., Photographers, and the “Accrington Motor Ambulance,” presented by Miss Haworth.

Despite war conditions, an interesting exhibition of the work of local art students was arranged in the gallery. The attendance of visitors was, so far as could be observed, quite up to the average.

Of loans for the purposes of exhibition, acknowledgment is due for the cast of a female figure, executed by Mr. Walter Marsden, (a former student at the School of Art), exhibited at the Royal College of Arts, and for a bronze bust by the same artist, exhibited at the Royal Academy. For the first-named loan, the Library is indebted to the artist, and for the second-named to the owner, Sir Geo. W. Macalpine.

Staff.—One or two changes in the personnel of the staff have taken place. Mr. Hesketh, the Assistant Librarian, who was appointed junior assistant so long ago as February, 1901, has been appointed to the position of Librarian at the neighbouring township of Oswaldtwistle. The senior female assistant, Miss E. A. Bamber, was appointed to fill this vacancy on approbation for twelve months. The scale of salaries for junior female assistants has received attention, being increased to 10/- per week on appointment, and rising 2/6 per week annually to a maximum of £1.

General.—The year has witnessed the closing of the subscription department, the number of subscribers having dwindled down to a quite inadequate total to make the running of it worth while.

Through the medium of the Library, books and magazines to the number of about 6,000 have been sent to the Camps' Library for the use of men on active service. The services of the staff are still available for the purpose of collecting and forwarding books and magazines to the headquarters of the Camps' Library.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN W. SINGLETON,
Borough Librarian.

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

EXPENDITURE.		INCOME.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
By Salaries and wages	429 16 2	To Fines, etc.	43 1 7
,, Fuel, light, etc.	147 18 0	,, Proportion of cost of heating :—	
,, Rates, taxes, and insurance ..	89 16 9	Mechanics' Institution .. £15 0 0	
,, Purchase of new books	39 19 10	Municipal Offices .. , 5 2 5	
,, Replacements and re-binding ..	73 6 0		— 20 2 5
,, Printing	26 17 10		
,, Newspapers and magazines ..	64 5 6	BALANCE :—	
,, Subscriptions	27 9 1	Amount charged on Local Rate	952 5 1
,, Sundries	115 19 11		
			£1015 9 1

TABLE shewing CLASS ISSUES.
(LENDING DEPARTMENT).

CLASS.	1915-16		1914-15	
	Central Library.	Baxenden Delivery Station.	Central Library.	Baxenden Delivery Station.
Miscellaneous	1465	1	951	4
Philosophy	394	..	570	..
Religion	928	..	1027	..
Sociology	965	..	1154	..
Language & Literature .	1643	..	1703	..
Biography	1552	10	1808	2
History, Geography, etc	4334	160	4749	135
Science	1432	17	1745	13
Useful Arts	2819	7	3039	6
Fine & Recreative Arts ..	4402	..	3901	..
Juvenile non-fiction ..	1484	127	1543	112
Do. (School issues) ..	3932	..	4187	..
Juvenile Fiction	8852	738	8786	708
Do. (School issues) ..	12627	..	14553	..
Fiction	64065	1567	66627	1210
Totals	110834	2627	116343	2190
Non-Fiction	20,129 vols.	..	17.74%	
Juvenile Fiction	27,760 vols.	..	24.46%	
Fiction	65,572 vols.	..	57.79%	

LENDING DEPARTMENT : Table of Monthly Issues.

1915-16	No. of Days open	Central	Bax'den	Totals	Daily Av'age issue	Books on loan from Smith's	Totals 1914-15
April	24	9618	199	9817	401	57	8659
May	25	8961	223	9184	359	55	8918
June	26	8222	222	8444	316	55	8050
July	21	8078	163	8241	385	50	7696
August ..	26	9118	203	9321	351	38	9268
September	25	8990	182	9172	359	32	10296
October ..	26	10389	239	10628	399	36	12000
November .	26	10054	240	10294	388	39	11359
December .	25	9456	205	9661	378	48	10552
January ..	25	9969	238	10207	398	61	11207
February ..	25	9929	258	10187	397	72	10024
March	27	10677	255	10932	395	127	10504
Totals ..		301	113461	2627	116088	376	670
Totals— 1914-15		301	116343	2190	118533	394	749
							..

NTS.

CLASS.	NCE.		
	Net bal.	With- drawals.	Nett total end of year, 31st March, 1916.
A ..	18	7	911
B ..	14	..	14
C ..	64	..	164
D ..	19	..	219
E ..	35	..	435
F ..	70	..	370
G ..	15	..	815
H ..	46	..	646
K ..	00	..	100
L ..	58	..	358
M Non- fiction	..	..	..
M ..	1	..	1
N ..	73	..	73
	13	7	4106
Local ..	35	..	1135
	48	7	5241

TABLE GIVING PARTICULARS OF STOCK IN LENDING AND REFERENCE DEPARTMENTS.

CLASS.	LENDING.						REFERENCE.				
	No. of Vols. in stock beginning of year.	Additions.	Total.	With- drawals.	Nett total end of year, 31st March, 1916.	% of Stock in each Class.	No. of vols. in stock beginning of year.	Additions	Total.	With- drawals.	Nett total end of year, 31st March, 1916.
A ..	651	9	660	..	660	3.59	907	11	918	7	911
B ..	206	..	206	..	206	1.12	14	..	14	..	14
C ..	787	37	824	..	824	4.48	154	10	164	..	164
D ..	644	9	653	..	653	3.55	212	7	219	..	219
E ..	950	19	969	1	968	5.26	427	8	435	..	435
F ..	1549	27	1576	..	1576	8.58	366	4	370	..	370
G ..	2140	40	2180	..	2180	11.86	805	10	815	..	815
H ..	848	12	860	..	860	4.68	641	5	646	..	646
K ..	602	22	624	..	624	3.39	98	2	100	..	100
L ..	1038	175	1213	..	1213	6.60	345	13	358	..	358
M Non- fiction	712	27	739	34	705	3.83	..	..	..	..	..
M ..	2075	68	2143	192	1951	10.62	1	..	1	..	1
N ..	5791	244	6035	89	5946	32.37	73	..	73	..	73
Local ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4043	70	4113	7	4106
							1125	10	1135	..	1135
	17993	689	18682	316	18366	..	5168	80	5248	7	5241



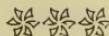
Borough of Accrington.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

LIBRARIAN'S
SIXTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

COVERING THE

Year ended 31st March, 1917.



Accrington Public Library.

To the Chairman and Members of the Library Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Sixteenth Annual Report, covering the year ending 31st March, 1917.

With the single exception of the Reference Department, all sections appear to be quite maintaining their normal use, and for home reading the second highest total in any one year since the library was opened is recorded.

Lending Department.—The issue of books for home reading for the year covered by this report is 116,140—Central Library, 113,555; Baxenden Delivery Station, 2,585; an increase of 2,679 volumes compared with the issue of 1915-16, and only 1,454 less than the highest recorded issue. Having regard to the large number of persons away on war service, to the fact that many people having in normal times a large amount of leisure are now actively employed, and also that so little has been spent upon new books, there would appear to be ample evidence that the library is filling a real need in these war times. The total number of issues for home reading since the Library was opened in April, 1901, is 1,542,409, and including books issued at 7th Standard Classes in Schools, 1,554,973.

The Library was again open on 301 days, the daily average issue being 385, an increase of 9 volumes. Wednesdays are counted as one day in arriving at these figures although the lending department is only open until one o'clock on that day. Allowing three Wednesdays for one normal day the average issue daily would be 435. 2,561 new or renewed tickets have been issued as follows, (increase 91)—Burgesses, 395 ; Non-Burgesses, 1,134 ; Non-burgesses, (Juvenile) 255 ; on Head Teachers' recommendations, 777. Extra tickets for non-fictional works have been granted to 105 borrowers (decrease 50), and the bookings for reserved books number 354, (decrease 15). It does not appear to be widely known, despite notices displayed above the shelves and appearing in the rules, that an extra card available for any sections other than Fiction and Juvenile, may be obtained by all adult borrowers. 87 volumes have been obtained on loan from W. H. Smith and Sons, the number of issues recorded being 1,472.

The amount received in fines for overdue books is £27 12s. 0d., being 4d less than last year—5,583 payments were made : an increase of 456.

235 volumes have been added to this department, 198 by purchase and 37 by gift, bringing the total stock after deducting withdrawals (78 volumes) to 18,573.

Reference Department and Local Collection.—The stock in the reference department has been increased by 81 volumes, 41 by purchase and 40 by gift. 16 volumes have been added to the local section, 9 by purchase and 7 by gift. The stock in these sections stands at—Reference, 4,187 ; Local, 1,151 ; Total, 5,338. The books consulted from the closed shelves number 402, (increase, 37) ; the number of visitors being 4,083—a

decrease of 2,713. This is the least satisfactory part of the Library's work, but it must be said that the restrictions of lighting allowing only a shaded table light have probably had much to do with the decreased attendance.

Binding.—The number of volumes bound or re-bound is 351, the cost of the work being £20 11s. 0d.; £70 9s. 3d. was expended last year under this heading. Of the total for this year the section numbers are Fiction 204, Juvenile 124, Non-Fiction 23. Larger numbers of books have been repaired and re-backed by the staff than usual. 800 volumes have had the fore-edges cut and re-sprinkled.

Replacements and Withdrawals.—143 volumes have for various reasons been replaced with fresh copies—11 with presented books—the cost of purchased replacements being £11 10s. 2d. (245 for £21 7s. 6d. last year). The reasons for replacement were—books worn out 130, replaced at the charge of borrowers 12, imperfect 1.

The number of withdrawals is 78 volumes (decrease 106). These volumes are chiefly works of fiction, worn-out and not considered necessary to be replaced, and out-of-print books.

Pictures and Exhibitions.—Five pictures have been added to the Art Gallery, bringing the total number on exhibition to 66. These additions are all the gift of Miss McGhee, London, and are further evidence of the interest taken in our gallery by this lady. The pictures added are “Landemer” by J. P. Heseltine (etching), “Windsor, Hampshire” by J. P. Heseltine (etching), “The Taj from Agra Fort, India” by R. W. Allan (water colour), “Christianity or Militarism,” by A. Wallace Rimington (etching), and “My friends,” by A. Wallace Rimington (etching).

The exhibition of work done by the students at the School of Art was again held in the gallery, and this department has also been put to use in connection with war appeals and the Central War Savings Association.

General.—The services of the Library staff have been called upon to a considerable extent for appeals in connection with the war. Books and magazines have been collected and sent to the Camps Library, an addition of about 1,000 volumes to the 6,000 previously dispatched. Some 10,000 Book Markers supplied by the Camps Library were distributed at the counter. Special consignments of books have been sent to the 4th Res. Batt., East Lancashire Regiment, at Ripon Camp, and to one of the Wings of the Flying Corps in Egypt. The staff was also responsible for the organization of no less than ten Mayoral Appeals for War Charities, by means of Flag Days, Mill Collections, and Concerts. The financial results of these efforts totalled £1,416 10s. 10d.

The Card Catalogue revision has been completed—dates of birth and death being added to the author entries where possible—a large number of cards being re-typed. “Standard Books” and Baker’s “Guide to Fiction” have been marked with a distinctive stamp to shew books in the library, and placed alongside the catalogue.

On January 18th,—the anniversary of the opening of the new library—the Annual Meeting of the North Western Branch of the Library Association was held in Accrington. The proceedings took the form of a discussion on co-operative work between the libraries and the public schools. Mr. Ward, Divisional Inspector, Messrs. Thornton, Robinson and Thomas, District Inspectors and others interested in Educational matters were present. I wish

to record my pleasure and thanks at having the opportunity of extending this invitation to the Branch, as, in some small way, a measure of reciprocity for hospitality received in many Lancashire towns

The usual subscriptions for loans of books for the use of blind readers have been paid, the distribution being accomplished through the local Blind Society: 162 volumes being received on loan. I am assured by the local secretary that good use is made of the books and that they are greatly appreciated. There are 14 blind readers in the town.

Tables of Statistics relating to the issues, etc., are appended.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN W. SINGLETON,

Borough Librarian.

Public Library,
3rd July, 1917.

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	INCOME.	£ s. d.
Salaries and wages	451 10 10	Fines, etc.	42 16 4
Fuel, light, etc.	157 6 3	Proportion of cost of heating :—	
Rates, taxes, and insurance	86 2 11	Mechanics' Institution	£15 0 0
Repairs to premises	2 9 4	Municipal Offices	6 4 3
Purchase of new books	43 3 5		—
Replacements and re-binding	33 11 5		21 4 3
Printing	23 3 0	BALANCE :—	
Newspapers and magazines	71 7 10	Amount charged on Local Rate	881 7 6
Subscriptions	48 8 6		
Sundries	17 4 7		
Decrease in value of Stock	11 0 0		
			£945 8 1

2nd July, 1917.

J. BECKETT,

Borough Treasurer.

TABLE shewing CLASS ISSUES. (LENDING DEPARTMENT).

CLASS.	1916-1917		1915-1916	
	Central Library.	Baxenden Delivery Station.	Central Library.	Baxenden Delivery Station.
A Miscellaneous	1208	5	1213	1
B Philosophy	259	..	394	1466
C Religion	906	..	928	394
D Sociology	971	..	971	928
E Language and Literature ..	1526	1	1527	..
F Biography	1450	6	1456	965
G History, Geography, etc. ..	3960	146	4106	..
H Science	1285	1	1286	1643
K Useful Arts	2518	1	2519	1643
L Fine & Recreational Arts	3811	3	3814	1562
M Juvenile Non-fiction	1580	129	1709	10
M Do. (School issues)	4910	..	4910	1562
M Juvenile Fiction	9091	740	9831	1494
M Do. (School issues)	14611	..	14611	1494
N Fiction	65469	1553	67022	1494
Totals	11355	2585	116140	113461
Non-Fiction	24,676	..	..	(decrease 996.)
Juvenile Fiction	24,442	..	..	(increase 2225.)
Fiction	67,022	..	..	(increase 1450.)

LENDING DEPARTMENT: Table of Monthly Issues.

1916-17	No. of Days open	Central	Bax'den	Totals	Daily Av'age issue	Books on loan from Smith's	Totals 1915-16
April	23	8930	242	9172	398	102	9618
May	27	9482	242	9724	360	94	8961
June	25	9142	208	9350	374	133	8222
July	20	8094	206	8300	415	114	8078
August . . .	27	8894	168	9062	336	136	9118
September	25	9432	183	9615	385	111	8990
October . . .	26	10149	211	10360	398	144	10389
November	26	9931	224	10155	390	147	10054
December	25	9341	199	9540	381	121	9456
January . . .	26	9736	221	9957	383	131	9969
February	24	9425	227	9652	402	110	9929
March	27	10999	254	11253	416	129	10677
Totals . . .	301	113555	2585	116140	4638	1472	113461
Totals— 1915-16	301	110834	2627	113461	376	670	...

TABLE GIVING PARTICULARS OF STOCK IN LENDING AND REFERENCE DEPARTMENTS.

CLASS.	No. of Vols. in stock beginning of year.	Additions.	Total.	With- drawals.	Nett total end of year, 31st March. 1917.	% of Stock in each Class.	REFERENCE.		
							No. of vols. in stock beginning of year.	Additions	Total.
A	660	3	663	..	663	3.56	911	10	921
B	206	3	209	..	209	1.12	14	..	14
C	824	22	846	..	846	4.56	164	..	175
D	653	7	660	..	660	3.55	219	4	223
E	968	11	979	1	978	5.26	435	6	441
F	1576	10	1586	..	1586	8.53	370	12	382
G	2180	39	2219	..	2219	11.94	815	4	819
H	860	6	866	..	866	4.66	646	6	652
K	624	11	635	..	635	3.41	100	3	103
L	1213	6	1219	..	1219	6.56	358	13	371
M Non- fiction	705	49	754	29	725	3.90	..	..	..
M	1951	195	2146	214	1932	10.40	1	1	2
N	5946	189	6135	100	6035	32.49	73	11	84
Local	..	..	..	..	..	..	4106	81	4187
	18366	551	18917	*344	18573	..	1135	16	1151
							5241	97	5338

* 78 during the current year

Borough of



Accrington.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

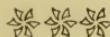
LIBRARIAN'S

SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORTS

COVERING THE TWO

Years ended 31st March, 1919.



MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS.

	1917-18.	1918-19.
Population (estimated)	41,415	40,694
Amount of rate in the pound (Powers to 2d.)	1.37d.	1.68d.
Ratable value	£208,469	£207,700
Cost of Library Service	£1256	£1383
,, ,, per inhabitant ...	7.2d.	8.1d.

Number of Staff :—

Librarian and Assistants :—

Males	2	2
Females.....	4	5

Caretakers :—

Whole time (male)	1	1
Part time (male)	1	1
Part time (female)	1	1

STOCKS AND ISSUES.

Number of volumes in stock : Lending ...	19,254	19,765
,, ,, Reference and Local	5,476	5,529
Volumes per head of population .....	.59	.61
Lending Department issues	131,724	153,318
,, ,, Daily average issue..	444	511
Reference Department (chiefly open access)	401	218
Issues from Lending Department per head of population	3.17	3.7

Accrington Public Library.

To the Chairman and Members of the Library Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I should like, in submitting my Seventeenth and Eighteenth Annual Reports, covering the years ending 31st March, 1919, rather to give a readable account of the Library's activities and some suggestions for increasing them, than a bare record of issues and statistics. I feel that this course is the more desirable in that the value of a Library's work cannot be gauged by the number of volumes on its shelves, or, even the number of times they are removed from them into the hands of borrowers.

An American has written :

“ There is no greater work on earth
Than sending knowledge, wit, and mirth,
Set down in ink by hands inspired
To homes where people, worn and tired,
Forget, while turning o'er the page
The grievous weight of toil and age.”

If the sentiment here expressed, truly describes the work of Lending Libraries, it will be patent that an evaluation of their worth cannot be based entirely upon statistics and issues. Nevertheless, figures are some test of the increase or decrease in the Library's activities, and it is my pleasure to report that each year under consideration has shewn a decided increase on any previous year's issue from the Lending Department ;
(a) 131,724 vols. (b) 153,318 vols.

In point of time this issue works out at close upon a book per minute of the hours the Lending Department is open. Perhaps some of the newspaper correspondents who call attention to the delightfully “ soft jobs ” fallen to the lot of those who “ dwell with genius every day ” in Libraries, will ponder these figures, remembering that the actual exchange of the volumes is only a fractional part of the work. The percentages are : Fiction (a) 57 (b) 60 ; Juvenile Fiction (a) 22 (b) 21 ; Non-Fiction (a) 21 (b) 19. It should be remembered that in estimating these percentages no account has been taken of the Reference issues, nor of the number of persons visiting the Reading Rooms. Issues at Schools, in 7th Standard Classes, of books on loan from the Lending Department total (a) 872 (b) 1,383.

(a) refers to the year 1917-18 ; (b) to 1918-19 throughout this report.

The daily average issue of books for home reading has increased from 385 in 1916-17 to (a) 444 (b) 511; in fact, the issue in each year from all points of view—day's issue, month's issue and year's total—is quite a record number. Whilst the facts are as stated, I regret to have to point out that the normal supply of new books and replacements has not been maintained. During the three years 1912-1915, 3,118 vols. were purchased, whilst for the four years 1915-1919 only 1,346 have been added: had the purchases up to 1915 not been on a fairly liberal scale it would have been impossible to deal with the largely increased issue, and, as it is, very many borrowers are quite unable to obtain the books they desire, except after long weeks of waiting, and not always then. That the number of books reserved by borrowers on payment of one penny (a) 713, (b) 1,073 is more than double that of any previous year, is a point to bear in mind in this respect. It is quite hopeless to try to work a Library successfully on old stock, and particularly galling to a staff, endeavouring to maintain its hold upon the readers, to have to offer them substitutes for their literary food even though the flavour may be of the best. "I am tired of coming to look for a new book" is a frequent cry. Only 896 volumes have been purchased for all Departments in the two years: (a) 427 (b) 469: the stocks being on 31st March, 1919,—Lending, 19,765, Reference, 5,529 (including 1,172 in the Local Collection)—

Total 25,294.

An analysis of the turnover of the Lending Department Stock shews an average for the two years of: Fiction 13, Juvenile Fiction 14.5, Juvenile Non-Fiction 9.4, Useful Arts 4, Fine and Recreative Arts 2.5, Philosophy 2.3, Geography, History and Travel 2.2, Miscellaneous 2, Social Science 1.5, Natural Science, Biography and Literature 1.4 each, and Theology 1.

It is almost impossible to give correct figures for the number of actual borrowers, but during the two years 5,623 new or renewed tickets have been issued—(a) 2,987 (b) 2,636.

In the early part of 1914 you agreed to the opening of a Branch Exchange Station at Baxenden, and it is pleasing to note that the issues have grown from 2,190 in the first year to (a) 2,727 (b) 2,701: not very large figures, but satisfactory, considering the rather scattered area served. At the time this Exchange Station was decided upon it was suggested that others should be opened, say, in the Burnley Road and Spring Hill Districts, and I venture to suggest this course to you again, as a likely, economical, field for development. The estimated cost per station was £17 per annum, but the Baxenden one does not cost more than about £8. If, in the course of the reconstruction of matters educational the Library has to play an

important part, I am of opinion that for the smaller towns an extension of the Exchange Station system is necessary. The fact seems to be well attested that outside a radius of a half to three-quarters of a mile, few persons are borrowers from a Central Town Library.

The issues for home reading since the Library was opened total 1,842,270 volumes.

A visit has been paid to the Library by the school children in the 6th and 7th standards. The children came in batches of about 20 to 30, and after an inspection of all departments and an explanation of how to use their own, a short talk was given by myself on "The growth of a book." A select subject list was printed and a copy distributed to each child. It will be within your recollection also that a Joint Committee of the Education Authority, the Library Committee, and the head teachers has been formed to consider a Scheme for School Libraries formulated in a report presented to you. Having regard, however, to the restriction upon the Library rate, it does not seem possible to proceed with the scheme unless the Local Education Authority are prepared to copy the example of some other towns and finance it. Work with the children has been furthered by the completion of a separate catalogue for their use; an author catalogue on cards, and title and subject catalogues in "sheaf" form. Entries in the latter have references to stories dealing with the subjects, and a duplicate copy has been provided for loan to schools.

Whilst the "sighted" are being catered for, the "blind" readers are not forgotten. Your subscriptions to the London and Manchester Libraries for the Blind have secured the loan of (a) 169 (b) 172 volumes. The word "volume" in this instance by no means represents "a work," "Monte Christo" being in 24 vols. Some of the other loans were "The Mistress of Shenstone," "Emma," "Mansfield Park," "The Adventures of Harry Richmond," many of Conan Doyle's works, "Comets and Shooting Stars," Biographies of Working-men, etc. A number of musical works—Chopin, Schubert and Mendelssohn—have also been borrowed, and from the Books for the Blind, provided by the Carnegie Trust, 32 vols. were obtained on loan. There are about 14 blind readers in the town, and I am assured by the Secretary that the books are fully appreciated, and the arrival of exchanges eagerly awaited.

Two subjects have loomed large in the Library world recently; "Work with the children," which I have already touched upon, and "Co-operation." I had hoped to be able to report the completion of an arrangement with two neighbouring towns with regard to the filing of periodicals and sets of the Transactions of Learned Societies, but depletions of staffs and War work have interfered with the arrangements. Such a scheme is being discussed between us, and if a satisfactory arrangement can be made I think it will lead to a greatly increased usefulness on the part of all the Libraries concerned. Another co-operative effort--this as an economy scheme, and not for extension purposes--which I believe would be of great service, is the establishment of a joint bindery. It has been difficult to get any binding done at all, but (a) 461, (b) 454 volumes have been re-bound at a cost of £33 14s. 11d. and £38 6s. 9d. respectively. The practice of having the fore-edges of dirty books guillotined and re-sprinkled has been continued--1,000 volumes have been so treated during the two years. This is a minor detail, but lends much to the pleasure of handling the books and extends the time in which it is possible to retain them in respectable service. Where the cloth covers have allowed, books have been re-sewn and fastened in the covers again: this work has been done by the staff in addition to ordinary repairs.

A small Exhibition of Business Books was arranged in the Reference Room, and resulted in a largely increased use of that Department. The supply of Directories and Year Books has been considerably augmented, and if the Exhibition did nothing more than serve to remind business and tradesmen that there is a place in the town where enquiries are welcomed, and, when possible answered, it cannot but have done good.

Three pictures have been purchased for the Art Gallery. These are drawings intended for reproduction, and are the work of an Accrington artist--John E. Sutcliffe. Two have been framed with the reproduction and exhibited, but I have not yet been able to secure a print of the reproduction of the third. There are now 69 pictures in the gallery. An exhibition of Battle Pictures was held in February, 1919--1,373 persons paid for admission. The Committee had no choice in the matter of the charge of one shilling for admission.

The Staff has again lent its aid in the matter of providing books for the Camps Library and in organizing Mayoral appeals for War Charities, and I record with pleasure the excellent services rendered by my assistants in this work on the top of a largely increased amount of work in the Library. On this point the following quotation from a "Report of the work of Camps' Library," published by H.M. Stationery Office, will be of interest.

“ To the Public Libraries for the assistance they gave, great thanks are due. In October, 1915, Sir Edward Ward was asked by the Library Association to give a lecture to the public libraries of Great Britain on the origin and work of the Camps’ Library. The practical result of the lecture was that the Public Libraries consented to act as centres for the collection of books for the troops, and throughout the war continued to do this in a quiet and systematic manner.

The system adopted was for bookmakers to be put into the thousands of volumes lent, and the Public Libraries of Great Britain have to their credit the splendid record of distributing over 800,000 leaflets, and in many instances supplementing the public’s contributions by considerable gifts of books from their own surplus and duplicate stocks.”

Library Rate.—I do not think I ought to close this report without some mention of the limitation of the Library Rate. When Mr. Carnegie increased his grant to us he stipulated that a rate of 1½d. should be levied, as he considered the product of that rate to be the minimum upon which so large a Library could be maintained. At the current value of the sovereign this amount should now be at least 3d., and our powers are limited to 2d. There is no doubt that the Library system of the country is in great danger unless the rate limitation is removed and each Local Authority at liberty to say what it shall spend on its Library. With an extended period of education it seems more necessary than ever that the central place for study—the public reference library—should be properly equipped and maintained. The Local Government Board has just issued an order granting power to Manchester to levy a 3d. rate, and it seems reasonable to suggest that they should do the same for all the Libraries in the country. Your support of the action of the Library Association towards this end will carry weight, having regard to the fact that Accrington is one of the few towns with powers beyond 1d.

I have endeavoured to keep this report as free as possible from tabular statistics; the usual tables of statistics have, however, been compiled for the purpose of retaining a continuous record, and I shall be glad to shew them to any member of the Committee on request.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN W. SINGLETON,
Borough Librarian.

Public Library,
3rd July, 1919.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Borough of Accrington.



PUBLIC LIBRARY.

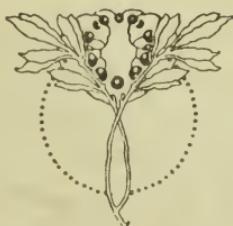
LIBRARIAN'S

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH

Annual Reports

COVERING THE TWO

Years ended 31st March, 1921.



MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS.

	1919-20.	1920-21.
Population (estimated)	44,669	45,479
Amount of rate in the pound	2d.	3.95d
Ratable value	£208,329	£209,076
Cost of Library Service	£1972 2 3	£3297 18 7
,, ,, per inhabitant ...	10.5d.	1s. 5.8d.

Number of Staff :—

Librarian and Assistants :—

Males	2	2
Females	5	5

Caretakers :—

Whole time (male)	I	I
Part time (male)	I	I
Part time (female)	I	I

STOCKS AND ISSUES.

Number of volumes in stock : Lending ...	20,023	20,510
,, ,, Reference and Local	5,463	5,589
Volumes per head of population .....	.57	.57
Lending Department issues	137,769	135,452
,, ,, Daily average issue ...	460	483
Reference Department (chiefly open access)	352	367
Issues from Lending Department per head of population	3.08	2.97

Accrington Public Library.

To the Chairman and Members of the Library Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

It is two years since my last Report was presented to you covering the two years ending 31st March, 1919. The Nineteenth and Twentieth Reports now submitted, cover the two years ending 31st March, 1921. Whilst the total issue from the Lending Department is less by 11,821 than for the previous two years, there are one or two factors to be taken into consideration. It must be remembered that the issue of the year 1918-19 was quite an abnormal one, being over 20,000 more than the previous best year. A further allowance must be made in that during the current year the Lending Department was closed for decoration for a period of nineteen days, which, on our daily average issue would account for 8,968 volumes. As the issues recently have had an upward trend, it seems fair to argue that but for this closed period they would have been well above the average. In point of time the issue works out at close upon a book per minute: the figures being 1919-20, 137,769 vols. ; 1920-21, 135,452 vols.

In my last report I drew attention to the efforts which were being made in several places to secure increased revenue by means of Orders in Council. The 2d. rate allowed by our Local Act not being sufficient to meet standing charges, you agreed to an application being made for an Order in Council to increase our powers to 4d. This was proceeded with, but before its completion the new Libraries' Act of 1919, removing the rate limitation, became law, and rendered further proceedings by Orders in Council unnecessary. You are now at liberty to prepare your estimates in like manner with other departments of the Town's service. One advantage of this is that in place of estimating standing charges and then applying the balance of the product of the rate (if any) to the purchase of new books and renewals, as has been necessary in the past, a definite sum can now be set aside for this purpose. This has been done during the past two years, and its effect will soon be noticeable in the condition of the stock. A sum of money has been put aside for replacements to make up, as far as possible, for the neglect

in this respect during the war years. If these replacements do not appear so quickly as one would wish, it is largely because of the difficulty in obtaining them. Some 1,900 worn-out volumes have quite recently been taken out of circulation, but up to the present only about 700 have been replaced. Lists of wants are being constantly circulated in likely quarters. Of new books 2,238 volumes have been obtained during the two years, the total stock after deducting withdrawals being:—Lending, 20,510 vols., Reference and Local, 5,589 vols. Possibly the method of advertising new additions by means of book covers at the entrance to the Library may have had some effect upon the large increase in the number of reserves paid for by borrowers; 2,857 as against 1,786 for the period covered by the last report. The daily average issue of books for home reading is 472, as against 477. The issue for home reading since the Library was open totals 2,115,491 volumes.

During the past year, alterations have been carried out in the Children's Department. The room formerly used as a Children's Reading Room has been transformed into a complete Children's Library. Tables and chairs have been provided in lieu of forms and desks, a portion of the wall has been shelved to take the children's books which have been removed from the ordinary Lending Library, and the books have been re-classified on the "Dewey" system. Though not quite complete (two tables for reference work have still to come), the improvement in the service, and the conduct of the visitors is very marked. A small Reference Library has been provided, also cases for the periodicals. No doubt the effect of these alterations will be visible in the use of the Library by the children, if not in increased issues, at least by a better appreciation of the facilities afforded.

A further advantage arising from the change in the Children's Department is in the additional shelf space available for the general Lending Department. This has meant the re-arrangement of all the sections, and has, for the time being, confused some of the borrowers, but the resulting inconvenience is outweighed by the removal of the books from the bottom shelves in the majority of cases.

The whole building has been decorated during the past year. This was effected with little disturbance to the readers, the Reference Department being used temporarily as a Reading Room. It was found impossible to effect the decoration of the Lending Department without closing.

The School Library scheme has moved forward considerably. The Education Committee voted a sum of money for this purpose, and the Special Committee—representing the Library Committee, the Education Committee and the Teachers—decided to provide sets of readers in the first place—and this has been done. A further grant has been made this year for the purpose of establishing Lending Libraries in each school. When this is done, the proposal as outlined in a former report on co-operative work between the Schools and the Library will be well on its way towards completion. Certain special classes receive small loans of books from the Library; the issue of these volumes totals 509.

The only large Exhibition arranged has been that of the "Daily Mail" Village Signs. These designs were only on view for a week, but they created great interest, the attendance being 6,615. Of the small Exhibitions downstairs, that of "Chromatic Photographs," being early attempts by the late John Mercer to colour photographic prints, was greatly appreciated. The specimens were lent by Mr. Richard Broughton. Other exhibitions arranged were "Election Pamphlets and Broadsides," and works on the "Lancashire Dialect."

Until quite recently, it has been difficult to secure anyone to undertake the binding and re-binding of books, and the price at which it could be done made it necessary to consider extending the re-stitching and re-casing, done for many years, by the staff. Of ordinary Library books, 171 vols. have been re-cased on the premises. In addition, the books in the School Libraries were examined and repaired—480 vols. being re-cased by the staff. 1,741 vols. were sent away for re-binding, the cost being £303 16s. 9d.

Blind readers, of whom there are 16 in Accrington, have been provided with literature through the Local Institution. 234 vols. have been obtained on loan by means of your Subscription to the Manchester and London Libraries, now united. The selection shows good taste on the part of the blind readers; Biography, Natural History and Travel figure in it, but it is naturally strong in fiction—Hardy, Austen, Diver, Mason, Meredith, Farnol, Dickens and Stevenson are amongst the Novelists whose works have been called for.

In conjunction with the Director of Education, our staff compiled a list of Books for students of Weaving, as supplementary to general text-books, for the Union of Lancashire and Cheshire Institutes.

The placidity popularly applied to the daily life of the staff occasionally receives a rude awakening at the hands of enquirers. One person asked for the Ashworth Collection to be got out for him, as he was compiling a pedigree—this collection numbers about 2,000 vols. Another request was for a list of books on a certain chemical, but even the National Home Reading Union could not help us to find any published literature on the subject. It is impossible to tell how far reaching is the influence of a Library; an example is to be found in the request of a member of an Irish University College for the correct title, publisher and price of a book he had seen in the Reference Library. “Who are the ‘Sons of Ichwe,’ mentioned in Prince Lichnowsky’s pamphlet” necessitated a lot of correspondence and a communication to “Notes and Queries.” A lecturer wrote “Could you tell me the address of the Secretary of the Society to which I am lecturing on” No further particulars were given, but he was supplied with the information required.

I record these incidents, which are but a fraction of those received, not so much to shew what is being done, as to let it be known that the Library is being used and is intended to be used as an information bureau, and that the staff welcome enquiries.

In place of cumbering this report with tables of statistics, I have endeavoured to give a readable account of the Library’s activities; the usual tables of statistics have, however, been compiled for the purpose of retaining a continuous record, and I shall be glad to shew them to any member of the Committee on request.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN W. SINGLETON,

Borough Librarian.

Public Library,

15th July, 1921.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

EXPENDITURE.	1919-20			1920-21			INCOME.			1919-20			
	f.	s.	d.	f.	s.	d.	Fines, Fees, etc.,	f.	s.	d.	f.	s.	d.
Salaries and Wages	108	17	2	135	16	7		120	17	2	118	11	8
Fuel, Light, etc.	286	18	10	307	15	2							
Rates, Taxes, and Insurance ...	98	13	2	152	1	6	Proportion of cost of heating :						
Rent of Baxenden Branch ...	9	10	8	13	0	0	(Other departments) ...	30	15	4	40	13	4
Repairs to Premises	66	8	9	*695	16	7							
Purchase of New Books	172	7	4	298	18	7							
Replacements and re-binding...	61	11	10	303	0	3							
Printing, Stationery, etc.	108	12	0	90	5	9	Balance :—						
Newspapers and Magazines ...	113	18	7	135	18	2	Amount charged on Local						
Telephone charges	11	2	11	13	4	8	Rate	1972	2	3	3297	18	7
Subscriptions	38	6	4	33	18	10							
Officers' disbursements	17	3	3	38	18	1							
Deputation Expenses	18	14	0										
Pictures: Framing, etc.	18	9	5	12	16	5							
Directories	8	0	6	10	5	0							
Sundries : (Typewriter)	20	0	0	2	8	0							
				2131	14	9	3468	3	7				
LESS : Increase in value of stock	8	0	0	11	0	0							
				<u>£2123</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>£3457</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>				
* Includes for Decorating													
Alterations to Children's													
branch													

* Includes for Decorating
Alterations to Children's
branch



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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